

# Statistics Weekly

**Thursday, 11 June 1992**

*The week in statistics ...*

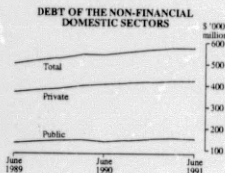
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## New insight into the economy

The ABS has published for the first time, information about the value of financial assets and liabilities for the Australian economy as a whole and of each sector of the economy (e.g. households, corporations, financial institutions, government). In the publication *Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts*, there is also information on the lending and borrowing undertaken by those sectors. A small sample of the information available is given below.

The table shows the liabilities of the domestic sectors (excluding financial institutions) that are in the form of 'conventional' debt and equity (shareholders' funds). 'Conventional' debt is all debt except sundry claims such as accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Conventional debt of the non-financial sectors rose from \$499,467 million at the end of June 1989 to \$543,200 million at the end of June 1990 and \$573,285 million at the end of June 1991. The portion of this debt owed by the private sector was \$368,125 million (74%) at the end of June 1989, \$405,883 million (almost 75%) at the end of June, 1990 and \$422,918 million (74%) at the end of June 1991. The corresponding figures for the public sector were: June 1989 \$131,342 million (26%); June 1990 \$137,317 million (25%); and June 1991 \$150,367 million (26%).



DEBT AND EQUITY OUTSTANDINGS,  
NON-FINANCIAL DOMESTIC SECTORS  
(\$ thousand million)

	Amounts outstanding at end of June quarter		
	1989	1990	1991
Debt and equity outstandings of the non-financial domestic sectors	678.4	726.3	759.5
less equity outstandings	179.0	183.1	186.2
Debt outstandings of the non-financial domestic sectors	499.5	543.2	573.3
Liabilities of —			
Commonwealth Public Trading Enterprises	10.7	14.0	16.2
State and Local Public Trading Enterprises	14.2	14.6	14.4
Commonwealth General Government	56.9	49.6	49.4
State and Local General Government	49.5	59.1	70.4
<b>Total Public Non-financial Sector Debt</b>	<b>131.3</b>	<b>137.3</b>	<b>150.4</b>
Private Corporate Trading Enterprises	210.8	229.4	237.1
Households and Unincorporated Businesses	157.3	176.5	185.9
<b>Total Private Non-Financial Sector Debt</b>	<b>368.1</b>	<b>405.9</b>	<b>422.9</b>

The publication provides further dissections of this information. For example, it shows the amount of debt owed by each individual sector broken down according to the sectors to which the debt is owed, including the rest of the world. It also shows the distribution of debt according to various types of financial instruments (e.g. loans, short-term securities, long-term securities) involved.

The information on borrowing and lending shown in the publication is accompanied by information from the national accounts about each sector's savings and investment in capital. It provides an indication of how resulting financial surpluses were invested and how deficits were financed.

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts, Financial Accounts* (5232.0), or contact Derick Cullen on (06) 252 6244.

## Divorces increase in 1991

In 1991 there were 45,630 divorces granted throughout Australia, a 7 per cent increase from 1990 (42,635). The crude divorce rate increased from 2.5 per cent per 1,000 population in 1990 to 2.6 per cent in 1991.

Divorce rates (per 1,000 married males and females) increased for all age groups in 1991. There were 11.6 divorces per 1,000 married population in 1991 compared with 10.9 in 1990. In 1991, the divorce rate for females aged under 25 years was, for the first time, higher than for females age 25 to 29 years. The highest divorce rate for males continued to be for the 25 to 29 years age group.

The median age at divorce was 38.4 years for males and 35.5 years for females. The median age at marriage of divorcing males and females was 24.8 years, and 22.3 years respectively.

The median duration of marriage to divorce for all divorces was 10.3 years. However, the median duration of marriage for persons divorcing for the first time was 11.3 years for males and 11.2 years for females, while for those who remarried after a previous divorce, the median length of time that the marriage lasted was 7.6 years for males and 7.7 years for females.

**DIVORCES, MEDIAN DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1991**

Marital status at date of marriage	Husband	Wife
Never married	11.3	11.2
Widowed	7.1	7.5
Divorced	7.6	7.7
Total	10.3	10.3

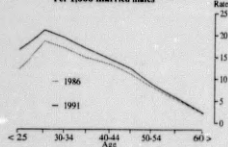
Of men divorcing in 1991, 16.3 per cent had previously been divorced. There were 15.4 per cent of women divorcing who had previously divorced.

Of the total divorces granted in 1991, 48.3 per cent were as a result of an application by the wife, 36.0 per cent were granted to husbands as sole applicant and 15.7 per cent were as a result of a joint application for divorce.

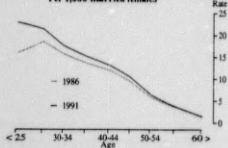
There were 46,697 dependent children from the 54.2 per cent of divorces which involved children, an average of 1.9 children per divorce.

For further information, order the publication *Divorces, Australia* (3307.0), or contact Michael Nunn on (06) 252 6755.

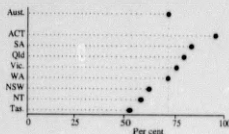
**DIVORCE RATES, 1986 AND 1991**  
Per 1,000 married males



Per 1,000 married females



APPARENT RETENTION RATES, 1991  
Secondary school students to year 12



## Over 70% of students now stay at school to Year 12

The apparent retention rate to Year 12 of schooling increased between 1990 and 1991 in all States and Territories, with the national rate rising from 64 per cent to 71 per cent.

This is the biggest single-year increase in the retention rate for at least five years. It intensified a longer-term trend which has seen the apparent rate to Year 12 more than double in the last decade. The retention rate for female students (76.7%) was higher than the corresponding rate for males (66.1%). The rate varied between States and Territories, ranging from 52.6 per cent in Tasmania to 95.4 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory.

Results from the 1991 Schools Census show that there were 3,075,137 full-time students attending school last August with 72 per cent in government schools and 28 per cent attending non-government schools. In each category there was a 1.1 per cent increase over the 1990 figure.

As at August 1991, there were 9,980 schools operating in Australia. Three-quarters of these were government schools employing the full-time equivalent of 145,895 teaching staff and 33,043 non-teaching staff. Non-government schools employed the full-time equivalent of 53,638 teaching staff and 13,784 non-teaching staff.

Among other findings, the Schools Census revealed that:

- ☐ Student/teaching staff ratios ranged from 14.0 students per teacher in the Northern Territory, to 16.3 in New South Wales, with the average across Australia being 15.4.
- ☐ Three-quarters of teaching staff in primary schools were female, compared with a roughly even distribution of males and females in secondary schools.

### SCHOOLS, AUGUST 1991

	Government schools	Non-government schools	All schools
Schools	7,470	2,510	9,980
Students	2,217,226	857,911	3,075,137
Teaching staff	145,895	53,638	199,532
Non-teaching staff	33,043	13,784	46,827

The statistics were collected through the National Schools Statistics Collection of the Australian Education Council School Statistics Committee, of which the ABS is a member.

## New book presents the facts for our environment debates

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has launched a first comprehensive reference book on Australia's environment, to coincide with the 'Earth Summit' in Brazil.

The 350-page book *Australia's Environment: Issues and Facts* is an objective reference — free from opinions. It contains information of interest to all Australians, supported by many graphs, diagrams, colour maps and tables.

The structure of the publication is based on the *United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics*, which presents data in terms of the impacts of human activities on the various components of the environment such as flora and fauna, the atmosphere, land and soil, water and human settlements.

These components become the chapters of the book with information about the impact of relevant human activities and the government and community based responses to deal with environmental problems.

This valuable reference work is the first products of the Environment and Natural Resource Statistics Unit, established within the ABS in July 1991 in response to the increasingly important public debate about environmental issues.

The Unit regards the first edition of *Australia's Environment* as a prototype, albeit a most comprehensive one, and welcomes feedback from interested readers on data sources, presentation and other issues. Such feedback will be invaluable in preparing a second edition of the compendium, which is scheduled for publication in approximately two years.

For further information, order the publication *Australia's Environment: Issues and Facts* (4140.0), or contact Graeme Oakley on (06) 252 5339.

## In brief...

### ☐ Red meat production

In seasonally adjusted terms, there was a 1.2 per cent fall in total red meat production, with decreases in beef (4.8%) and lamb (4.9%) and increases in veal (14.4%), mutton (15.3%) and pigmeat (1.2%). For the ten months ended April 1992, compared with the same period for 1990-91, total red meat production in original terms rose 0.2 per cent.

Source: *Livestock Products, Australia, April 1992* (7215.0).

### ☐ Cash management trusts

The weighted average net yield of Cash Management Trusts continued to decline during the month, falling to 6.49 per cent from the March 1992 average of 6.55 per cent and significantly down on the yield of 10.41 per cent recorded in April 1991. The yield on 90-day bank bills decreased to 6.95 per cent compared with 7.55 per cent in March 1992.

Source: *Cash Management Trusts, Australia, April 1992* (5635.0).

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order  
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
(06) 252 6627  
FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

## All the week's releases: 3 to 9 June

### General

Publications Issued in May 1992 (1102.0; \$6.00)  
Publications Advice, 5 June 1992 (1105.0; free)  
Publications Advice, 9 June 1992 (1105.0; free)  
Statistics Weekly, 4 June 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)  
NIF-10S Model Data Base Manual, March Qtr 1992 (1340.0; free)  
(available on magnetic tape, floppy disk and microfiche)  
Economic Indicators, Vic., May 1992 (1307.2; \$6.50)

### Demography

Australian Demographic Statistics, September Qtr to December Qtr 1991  
(3101.0; \$12.00)  
Divorces, Aust., 1991 (3307.0; \$12.00)

### Social statistics

National Health Survey: Health Risk Factors, NSW, 1989-90  
(4380.1; \$80.00) — *new issue*  
National Health Survey: Health Risk Factors, Vic., 1989-90  
(4380.2; \$80.00) — *new issue*  
National Health Survey: Health Risk Factors, WA, 1989-90  
(4380.5; \$80.00) — *new issue*

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts, Sept 1989 to June Qtr 1991 (5232.0; \$40.00) — *new issue* (Previously: Information Paper: Australian National Accounts: Flow of Funds, Developmental Estimates)  
Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, April 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)  
Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Exports, March Qtr 1992 (5434.0; \$19.00)

### Agriculture

Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, Qld, 1990-91  
(7120.3; \$16.00) — *new issue*

### Secondary industry and distribution

Research and Experimental Development, Business Enterprises, Aust., 1990-91 (8104.0; \$20.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, March 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, March 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)  
Building Approvals, NSW, April 1992 (8731.1; \$10.50)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., March 1992 (8741.6; \$5.00)

### Transport

Interstate Road Freight Movement, Aust., March Qtr 1992 (9214.0; \$6.00)  
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, April 1992 (9303.3; \$10.50)



## Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

## Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6104

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 23 June 1992

### June

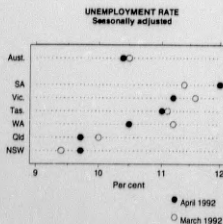
- 11** The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary, May 1992 (6202.0; \$10.50)  
Retail Trade, Australia, April 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- 12** Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, March 1992 (8750.0; \$10.50)
- 15** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, April 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
- 18** Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, February 1992 (6302.0; \$10.50)  
Export Price Index, Australia, April 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 19** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, April 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
- 23** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, April 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 9 June 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 91)*	-25.6	-17.7	-10.8	-3.6	1.1	-51.4	n.a.	n.a.	-17.4
Retail turnover (Mar. 92) (trend estimate)	5.3	2.6	6.6	-1.2	8.5	3.3	n.a.	8.9	4.6
New motor vehicle registrations (Apr. 92)†	11.3	14.8	-19.7	-3.1	5.7	-6.2	-6.5	-14.0	2.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 92)	31.0	29.8	19.9	14.5	42.8	3.2	319.2	149.2	30.4
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 91)	-25.5	-25.4	4.4	-29.6	-12.9	3.4	4.3	3.4	-18.5
Employed persons (Apr. 92)*	-0.8	-2.1	2.4	-3.3	0.9	-3.3	6.0	-2.9	-0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Nov. 91)	4.7	4.1	3.0	5.3	4.3	3.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Dec. qtr 91)	3.2	3.6	10.1	-2.6	8.3	3.6	2.8	2.9	5.1

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.



## Key national indicators – consolidated to 9 June 1992

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period						
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	64,762	0.6	0.8
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7	-21.3
— 1984-85 prices			3,898	4,386	-2.3	-18.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to June 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices (e)	"	Mar. 92	7,499	7,815	-0.2	3.6
— 1984-85 prices (e)	"	Mar. qtr 92	14,755	15,531	1.1	2.1
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Apr. 92	39,276	42,748	-12.6	2.2
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Apr. 92	13,100	13,934	9.7	35.8
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,677	1,792	4.1	18.2
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	5,977.4	5,675.6	-3.6	-18.5
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,846.5	3,652.3	-3.9	-16.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons (e)	'000	Apr. 92	7,696.4	7,672.3	-0.2	-0.7
Unemployment rate † (e)	%	"	10.6	10.4	-0.1	0.7
Participation rate † (e)	"	"	63.0	62.7	-0.3	-0.9
Job vacancies	'000	Feb. 92	27.6	26.6	3.1	-4.5
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.10	1.12	5.7	-6.3
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index	1989-90 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	107.6	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. 92	120.0	n.a.	-0.7	0.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Mar. 92	111.6	n.a.	0.0	1.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 92	588.80	n.a.	1.7	4.4
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Mar. 92	7.55	n.a.	0.05	-4.05
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.90	n.a.	-0.15	-1.50
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Apr. 92	4,590	4,762	5.4	8.0
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,098	4,327	0.2	4.5
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	492	435	116.4	62.9
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	342	285	702.5	850
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-798	-897	9.6	-32.3
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	100.2	2.8	0.6
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
US\$	per \$A	Apr. 92	0.7627	n.a.	0.5	-2.2
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	58.1	n.a.	0.3	-2.5
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Mar. 92	218	206	-1.6	16.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 11 June 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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